

SPRING 2025



The R.F.P.A. GAZETTE

(Established 1931)
Registered office
PO Box 212
TEA GARDENS NSW 2324
www.retiredpolice.com.au

“RFPFA NSW PATRON – FORMER COMMISSIONER KAREN WEBB APM”

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NSW MOUNTED POLICE



The oldest continuously operating Mounted Police Unit in the World!

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- Committee Report
- Branch Reports
- Notice Board
- Vale
- Articles of Interest
- New Members Welcomed
- Reunions
- Members Benefits scheme info



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RFPA Member Benefits Scheme now active

DISCOUNTS NOW AVAILABLE

The RFPA Member Benefits Scheme has officially launched, offering an array of exclusive deals tailored for our financial members.

For full details of the Scheme visit the RFPA website at **retiredpolice.com.au**, click on **Membership** and then click on **RFPA Member Discounts and Benefits**.

For any questions or queries about the Scheme, please contact RFPA Benefits Scheme coordinator, **David Drew** on 0426 818 177.

FRONT COVER STORY

FRONT PAGE STORY

The New South Wales Mounted Police, established in 1825, is the oldest continuous mounted police unit in the world, playing a significant role in law enforcement and community engagement in New South Wales.

The NSW Mounted Police was founded on **September 7, 1825**, by **Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane**. Initially formed as a paramilitary force, its primary responsibilities included tracking bushrangers and runaway convicts, as well as suppressing Indigenous resistance during the early colonial period. The unit was recruited from the British Army stationed in Australia and has evolved significantly over the years.

BICENTENARY CELEBRATION

In **2025**, the NSW Mounted Police celebrated its **200th anniversary**, marking two centuries of service. The celebration included a street parade featuring current and retired officers, showcasing the unit's enduring legacy and community ties. The event highlighted the contributions of long-serving members, such as retired Inspector **Don Eyb**, who dedicated 64 years to the Mounted Police.

Today, the NSW Mounted Police consists of over **30 officers and 38 horses**, based at the Bourke Street Police Complex in Redfern. While ceremonial duties, such as the annual Royal Easter Show musical ride, are part of their role, the majority of their work involves **crime prevention patrols, crowd control at public events**, and community engagement initiatives. The unit plays a vital role in maintaining public safety during major events and provides support to other police operations across the state.

The NSW Mounted Police remains a unique and integral part of the New South Wales Police Force, balancing its historical traditions with modern policing needs. Its ongoing commitment to community engagement and public safety continues to shape its operations in contemporary society.

Ed Note: Also see "Articles of Interest" – a book by **Dick Adams "Pottinger – The Baronet Mounted Troupier"**



Circa 1940s tram



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is the first Gazette since our AGM where I reported some significant developments for both the Association in Brand Recognition and the amazing benefits being available to the Members.

As I said at the meeting the achievements just don't happen. They come about by committed dedication of the Committee Members that you elect. As President I am the Figurehead and Team Leader of the Association. In that position I am fortunate to have had a great team to lead. They are resourceful and are forever expressing their thoughts in regards to how the RFPA can expand our Brand.

Each has their own strengths in a variety of areas and is not backward in expressing views on matters that come to hand.

Firstly we have our State Secretary **IAN LOVELL** who is an absolute dynamo in the manner he handles that position. The time he commits for the benefit of Members is immeasurable.

Apart from his Secretarial duties he also travels far and wide visiting Branches giving support and rebuilding Branches which for a number of reasons have begun to fall behind. He also takes on Welfare Duties visiting Members in hospitals and their homes.

Along with **DAVE WHITEMAN** our Webmaster he maintains an accurate and up to date Data Base to ensure that our Members receive the most up to date information from the RFPA.

Whilst mentioning **DAVE WHITEMAN** I must say that as our Web Master he has given the Association a Data Base Program that is more easily updated. Dave manages this as well as our RFPA Website and RFPA Face Book Site. Dave is also committed to advancing the RFPA Brand. The latest initiative is the RFPA Newsletter which is a means of advising our Members the latest and up to date information by the way of email.

Another initiative implemented over the last year is that of Business Partners. Our Committee Member **DAVID DREW** has taken the bit between his teeth with this initiative and is responsible for obtaining Benefits for our Members in areas such as Motor Vehicle Tyres and Servicing, Optical and Hearing, Motor vehicle Hire, Air travel and Tours Cruises, Holiday accommodation, Sporting equipment etc., with more in the pipeline. For an Annual Subscription of \$28 why would you not be involved for benefits in the hundreds and even thousands of dollars?

THE State Welfare Officer **IAN MOORE** has again excelled in this role keeping in contact both by phone and personal visits to our Members who are having health issues. He takes Welfare to another level.

I was saddened that three of our State Committee did not standing for re-election. Firstly our Treasurer **BRUCE HOWE** is standing down after many years of Service to the Association. He performed that role both diligently and admirably. He also had a sense of humour regarding the allocation of funds. Besides his ability with figures he was of great assistance in matters of a Constitutional and Legal nature.

Our Vice President **BETH DOCKSEY APM OAM** who was also our Police Legacy representative has also decided that the tyranny of distance and for health reasons chose not to stand but to commit her energies to the Murray River Branch.

Veteran Committee Member **ALLAN SIMPSON BEM KSjt** also chose not to stand for re election after serving with distinction and always with constructive input regarding the direction of the RFPA. He now has a major project which along with his motor touring in his majestic motor vehicles will more than adequately keep him busy.

To those Members and on behalf of the whole Committee and the membership, I thank you for your years of service and contribution and we wish good health and good luck in your future endeavours.

Other Committee Members I wish to personally and publicly thank are Senior Vice President **GEORGE WEISSEL**, Committee Persons **BELINDA DUNN-TOEMOE**, **ALAN LE SURF RUSSELL OXFORD** and **PAUL SMITH**. These Members have committed to stay on for 2025-2026 and are pivotal to the ongoing success of the RFPA.

A special thanks to **SANDY BENSON**, the sub editor of the Gazette who continues to produce a publication of quality and substance.

Former Vice President and Life Member **JOHN CROCKETT** has now returned to the RFPA Executive and we are pleased to welcome his return. His legal knowledge and experience are only part of the attributes he brings with him.

We have strengthened our alliance with the **INTERNATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION** and I can see progressing even further with benefits to the Members of both Associations.

On Thursday 14 August I was invited by the Seven Hills RSL Sub Branch to their VP/Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Service conducted at Seven Hills RSL. Our Committee Member **Paul Smith** was also in attendance along with about a dozen Members of Parramatta the Hills Branch. The Guest Presenter was **General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, AC(mil) CVO, MC** who was more than well received by the several hundred attendees.

On Wednesday 20 August along with our Secretary **IAN LOVELL**, I attended the NSW Police RSL Sub Branch VP/Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Service at Burwood RSL where again I laid a wreath in memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice.

On 27 August **IAN LOVELL** and I were invited by **Assistant Commissioner WADELL APM** to the Northern Region Formal Gala Dining Night for Serving and Retired Officers. It was held at Club Macquarie at Argenton. A most enjoyable night of camaraderie and fellowship. Caught up with old acquaintances including **JOHN URE** and Retired Police Chaplains **MUMFORD** and **DARK**.

The Association is progressing well and I again am looking forward to working with our Committee of Management over the next 12 months.

God Bless

Paul Wynne

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

We've said farewell to three of our Committee of Management colleagues in July.

Treasurer Bruce HOWE, who has always been a multiple office-bearer, author, adviser, advocate, police officer, soldier and has worn many hats, has had to consider letting some of this go. When the long-held seat at the Opera House was abandoned earlier this year we

knew Bruce was doing it tough. For his work for the RFPA in particular, and of course, his sterling record with the Police Association of NSW, the NSW Police RSL and NSW Police Cadets, along with the inauguration of the Vietnam Veterans (NSW Police) Wall of Remembrance at the Police Centre, we salute Bruce and wish him well in his life post RFPA duties. Bruce has set up the office of RFPA Treasurer very well for his replacement, yet to be sourced. If anyone reading this is interested in a rewarding spell as our finance controller, please make yourself known. Many thanks Bruce!

Allan SIMPSON BEM KSjt has had a lengthy career in policing, private enterprise and COM management. Allan tells a great story about his life's achievements if you are looking for a speaker at your Branch. His awards and achievements are unique. It seems that his interests in stately motor vehicles and touring are assuming greater importance and he has well and truly earned some time to himself. As our Veteran COM Member, Allan has distinguished himself in all he has done. Many thanks Allan.

Beth DOCKSEY APM OAM has completed several terms on our COM, latest being two years as our Vice President. Beth has provided liaison between Police Legacy and the RFPA, and has followed her interest in welfare (wellbeing) and rehabilitation aspects of post-policing through Emerge & See and Beyond the Badge programs as our liaison officer. Following surgery and a lengthy recovery, Beth has hung up the spurs in part, still maintaining her role as Secretary for our Murray River Branch. Some may have noted that Beth and Graham have spent quite a bit of energy seeing the world now that the formalities of COM are no longer taking up time. Thanks Beth for your two terms at COM, amounting to some six years of volunteering.

Replacing these three is an awesome task. Fortunately our multi-skilled and careful-thinking former **Vice President John CROCKETT** has reached the point where he needed something rewarding to do, and aside from grooming his new South Coast Secretary **Bob GROENESTEIN**, has decided to return to the COM, which he did by being elected at the 2025 AGM. Congratulations on the new job John.

The AGM had a disappointing attendance, but we achieved a quorum. The main items of business were several changes to the Constitution, which had been raised in their approved (at the AGM) form by **Bruce HOWE**. The changes were designed to ensure that applicants for membership of the RFPA meet acceptable standards of conduct in the community and will not likely bring the RFPA into disrepute. They have been registered with Fair Trading.

The Annual Membership up-to-date Draw was won by **Laurie BALDWIN Member 0069**. Unfortunately Laurie was in hospital and in serious trouble at the time. His wife **Amanda** was at his bedside to deliver the good news, but Laurie didn't make it to claim his great prize. Amanda is taking the holiday at the Reef Retreat (thanks again **Joanne and Jim**) at Palm Cove with their son, also a former NSW Police Officer. Just a reminder about the Reef Retreat. Check it out on our Member Benefits on the website. It's a great place for a break when the NSW weather is not the best.

I've noted some serious issues for our Mid North Coast Branch in past months. Firstly **AI LUKES**, the Chairman, passed away, and since then **Paul GRIFFIN**, long term Secretary has also left us. **Laurie McGRATH** has now taken on the Chair and **Paul EGGE** the Secretary role. In the interim, **Ian CAMPBELL** and **Jim CRANNA** have both stepped up and done what was required, and more, to keep things running. In my regular discussions with Jim, all that the late **Paul CLEMSON** taught me about how to help your fellow men and women has materialised. It's great to see every detail taken care of, and nobody in trouble or left to their own devices. Well done 'Portjames'.

COM Member **Paul SMITH APM** was until recently the Commander at Police Protocol, and was disappointed to note that Service Histories of deceased Members are no longer supplied with the former leather bound documents he was used to providing to families at funerals and memorials. This was always seen as a mark of respect and pride in the service that had been rendered, which was described in the formal document outlining aspects of policing service. COM has considered this for some time, and following Paul's work we have purchased a supply of folders to take the place of those no longer given by NSWPF. There is a small supply issued to Branches, and these will be replenished as needed. The first one was handed to **Denise WELSH** at Kevin's funeral at Tamworth on 17 September. Kevin had assisted, along with **Phil O'REILLY**, **Wayne BIFFIN** and others, in re-establishing the Peel Branch in 2024. Denise is an Associate at Peel.

Work done by Branch Welfare Officers in Branches is commended. The possibility of changing the word 'welfare' into a concept of 'wellbeing' has been discussed at COM and will shortly be subject of some research and involvement of qualified advocates and counsellors who are already RFPA Members and Associates. As of today's data, over 728 proactive calls have been made from Branches, with many more categories of contacts and assistance being monitored. Two potential sponsors have shown interest in working with us in home care and health insurance fields, but it is early days. One of these interested parties also provides formal training and part time employment in the aged care and security spheres. Keep up the good

work Welfare Officers!

David DREW continues to persuade merchants and service providers to favour RFPA Members who deal with them. He is now looking at preferred customer status for us in tourist regions, with an accent on accommodation and dining. Some of us are experimenting with him, and agreements will appear as benefits to all. In a most unusual arrangement, David has formed a liaison with U3A and that has netted us a few new members. Their capacity to share in aspects of our Benefits Scheme has mutual benefits. On a similar vein, Brisbane & Northern Suburbs Chair **Steve TURNER** has just become the Secretary for the **IPA (QLD)** and David is exploring possible partnership arrangements where we can benefit from deals already done.

'Carer of the Year' nominations are welcome for next year. If you know anyone who is doing a good job for an ailing Member or Associate, please let us know.

I caught up with a few old buddies at the Police Bowls Championships at Forster in late August. It was good to see **Radar**, **Matty GOODWIN**, **Craig THOMPSON**, **Mick Berwick**, **Geoff COX** and a few others. Great steak sandwiches, but I still prefer golf.

Don't forget Friendship Week 2026. It's time to book at the **Belmont Lakeside Holiday Park for 8-14 March**. Call 1800626438 and tell them Charlie from the RFPA sent you.

Ian Lovell

E: secretary@retiredpolice.com.au

CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS?

Email to secretary@retiredpolice.com.au or Phone: **0425 336 801** – with any changes



EDITOR'S REPORT

Keep up the great articles and photos coming in.

Cheers ,

Sandy Benson

E: Editor@retiredpolice.com.au

DEADLINE for the SUMMER 2025 EDITION is 15th Dec 2025.



WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT

Version 1/2024 of our Business Plan introduced the Northern Beaches Welfare Committee's concepts of collation and reporting of the extensive work many branches are doing, with a view to obtaining sponsorship and assistance with looking after our people. That branch's efforts are well coordinated by **Deb**

ANDERSON, who holds relevant professional qualifications. An emphasis on ensuring carers are valued and assisted where possible is an innovation, again from Deb's team, early in 2025. Meanwhile, Branch Welfare Officers have played an important role in carrying out their local liaison work and reporting it to CoM. We now have data which can be used to quantify our Welfare activities. Further strategies around 'wellbeing' are being considered.

On 24 June 2025 we were approached by representatives of an interstate enterprise, backed by the **South Australia Police Association**, and provided with business data describing a very well established at-home care model based on cooperation across three levels of Government. It involves home care, NDIS and security strands of a burgeoning industry, recently strengthened by new **Federal legislation**. Another arm of this business builds and services accommodation for first responders in selected locations, serviced almost entirely by eligible retired police officers in a variety of roles. Now operating in South Australia, this business model is sought to be established in NSW, and our data has shown the proponents that there is a basis for them to examine business prospects.

The data is gathered by our Welfare Officers as they go about visits, phone calls and more tangible assistance. The data is collated and sent to CoM as a formal report from each [participating] branch on or before the 20th of each month. 2025 accumulated data is set out below and is current at 7 October 2025.

Proactive Call	728	Grief/Bereave Visits	45
Inforeports Received	70	Legatees/Lost Member Phone	55
Visits made	181	Legatees/Lost Member Visit	41
Deaths	40	RUOK [Carer]	151
Grief/Bereave Phone calls	102		

Any 'welfare' activity should be reported on the Welfare Officer form provided to each branch, or by telephone/email to:

State Welfare Office **Ian MOORE** 0404881583
or welfare@retiredpolice.com.au

or State Secretary **Ian LOVELL** 0425336801
or secretary@retiredpolice.com.au

Ian Moore

TESTIMONIALS RE RFPa MEMBER BENEFITS

From **Bruce Alderton, Cessnock area** "A couple of months ago I went to JAX Tyres for new tyres on my wife's car. They recommended Pirelli tyres and when they were changing them, they noticed a problem with the brakes. They sent away for a part, fixed the brakes, and fitted the tyres on the same day. Being with the RFPa they fixed the brakes at the same cost as it was to them, and gave me a \$600 discount on the tyres".

Bruce even went back next time he was in Sydney and bought the manager of JAX a bottle of wine to say thanks. He could believe the service he got.

From **Lea Drew, Cromer** "I noticed that my tyre was going flat, so I went to JAX to get the puncture fixed. They said that I needed tyres, so I agreed and they fitted them, and the invoice gave me a \$700 discount."

From **Peter Rackley, Blacktown** "As you are aware, my wife and I recently undertook an extended cruise and vacation through the Pacific Islands to Hawaii. I booked this holiday through the RFPa sponsor MTA - Mobile Travel Agents - I thought I would let you know the planning and service provided was 'First Rate'. In particular our direct contact with MTA - BROOKE PRENTICE was exceptional. Brooke arranged the: Cruise Line, Cabin (and location on ship), land accommodation in Hawaii, flights from Hawaii, vehicle transfers to and from accommodation and to airport in Hawaii - which was absolutely seamless. On top of all the travel arrangements Brooke was able to secure a very, very reasonable rate for 'Travel Insurance' which was appreciated. As an added bonus, Brooke also provided me with a reference from MTA to present to a local Tour Operator in Hawaii, who was only too happy to discount all tours after viewing this reference.

Paul, please pass on this review to the RFPa membership, I am sure many of us who travel will enjoy utilizing the services of MTA (Brooke Prentice) to take the stress and drama out of making one's own travel arrangements."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Mr President and 1st Lady.

Could you include the photo taken on the day of their 64th Wedding Anniversary of **Tony and Sheila Brown** shown below with a short note and include in the upcoming RFPa Gazette please.

"I carried out a Welfare Check on **Tony/Sheila Brown** yesterday being Wednesday/8th. Tony informed me that he and Sheila celebrated their 64th Wedding Anniversary on Tuesday/7th, with a lovely luncheon together with family members. Tony stated it was a lovely day.

He does not get the opportunity to join us at our bi-monthly social luncheons these days. He is still heavily tied up with domestic duties at home, and supporting Sheila in the Nursing a home. It has not been easy for him.

I take this opportunity to congratulate both Tony and Sheila on their 64th Wedding Anniversary, on behalf of all our Coffs/Clarence RFPa Members. We wish you good health and love for ever and ever amen.

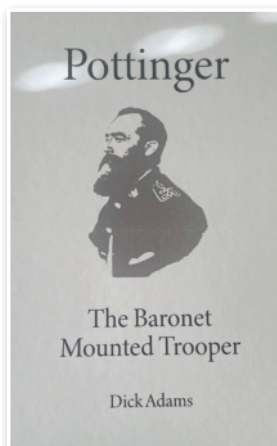
Cheers

Gary Heskett



Tony and Sheila on their 64th Wedding Anniversary

ARTICLES OF INTEREST



To coincide with the 200th anniversary of the NSW Mounted Police, RFPa member **Dick Adams** has researched, written and self-published the first comprehensive biography of **Inspector Sir Frederick William Pottinger**, a controversial and oft-maligned member of the fledgling New South Wales Police Force.

In this work, **Dick Adams** draws upon official documents and contemporary reports, as well as Pottinger's own diary and that of one of his troopers - to reconstruct the life and times of a man who relentlessly pursued members of the bushranger gangs of **Frank Gardiner and Ben Hall**.

Former Commissioner Ken Moroney described Dick's work thus: "Congratulations not only on the research and publication of this work, but the magnificent presentation"; whilst RFPa member and accomplished author, **Peter Watt**, described it as: "a masterpiece of scholarship, proven by meticulous research and presentation".

This is a limited edition, not-for-profit work. The book is A4, case-bound, and consists of 431 pages; and weighs in at 2.3kg. The book is available, from the author at-cost, for \$60 plus \$20 postage. If interested, contact the author; direct, at dickadams372@gmail.com

Dick Adams APM OAM

RAY GODKIN, OAM. POLICEMAN AND AUSTRALIAN CYCLING LEGEND



Ray Godkin OAM (1934-2025)

AusCycling life member and hall of fame inductee **Ray Godkin OAM** has passed away aged 90.

Godkin was a pioneer of cycling in Australia dedicating much of his life to the advancement of the sport nationally and internationally.

Born in Homebush, NSW, Godkin was a fitter and turner, then engineer, and joined the NSW Police at 26, forming the NSW Police Accident Investigation Squad in 1982.

He was a keen cyclist who competed through his teenage years before retiring as an active competitor at age 42.

His passion for the sport continued off the bike and saw him become involved in cycling administration in the 1970s. He became President of NSW Cycling before being appointed President of the Australian Cycling Federation from 1985 to 2000.

Godkin was influential during his time at Cycling Australia. Notably he facilitated the introduction of cycling to the Australian Institute of Sport, which led to significant international success at Olympics, Commonwealth Games and world championships for Australian cyclists.

It wasn't only at a national level Godkin made an impact on the sport. He became Treasurer of the International Amateur Cycling Federation (FIAC) following the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games and was a major contributor in the merger of the professional body with FIAC to form the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI).

He then went on to become UCI Senior Vice President from 1985 to 2008.

As cycling took up more of his time, Godkin retired from the police force at 55 to become Competition Manager for Cycling at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.



Ray Godkin with former Prime Minister John Howard at the launch of the Kuala Lumpur 1998 Commonwealth Games team. Photo: CGA

Godkin also held the position of Chairman of the Australian Commonwealth Games Association from 1987 to 1998 and served for four years on the Australian Olympic Committee executive.

He acted as UCI technical delegate at nine Commonwealth Games and six Olympic Games.

"Ray Godkin OAM dedicated his life to the advancement of cycling in Australia and internationally. His leadership, vision, and tireless service shaped generations of athletes and administrators. The legacy left by Ray inspire for generations to come," AusCycling acting CEO Kipp Kaufmann said.

Godkin has been recognised for his many achievements with the following honours:

- 1986 - Life Member New South Wales Cycling.
- 1989 - Medal of the Order of Australia for services to cycling.
- 1999- Life Member Cycling Australia.
- 2000 - Australian Sports Medal.
- 2015 - Cycling Australia Hall of Fame inductee.

AusCycling offers its condolences to the Godkin family.
Original article by AusCycling

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

SURNAME	CHRISTIAN NAME	BRANCH
AITKEN	ROSEMARY FIONA	MURRAY RIVER
AVERY	BROOKE PEITA	PARRAMATTA-THE HILLS
BASTICK	KELI JAYNE	HUNTER REGION
BENHAM	HELEN	MURRAY RIVER
BETHEL	DEBBIE	NORTHERN BEACHES
BRAUN	RONALD	COFFS HARBOUR
BROOKS	GAIL BARBARA	ILLAWARRA
BROWN	PETER RAYMOND	HUNTER REGION
BRYAN	DEBRA GAI	HUNTER REGION
CROOME	JAMES THOMAS	BRISBANE & NORTHERN SUB
DAVEY	CHRISTOPHER JOHN	CENTRAL TABLELANDS
DE MEZIERES	PATRICK	BRISBANE & NORTHERN SUB
DOHERTY	DANIEL	MACARTHUR
DWYER	ANNE RETA	MURRAY RIVER
FRENCH	JARROD RUSSELL	Coffs Harbour
GEERE	JOHN VALENTINE	New England
GRANT	RODNEY JOHN	Macarthur
HERRMANN	CHRIS	Hunter Region
HICKMAN	JULIE	South Coast
HOOD	ANGELA	Brisbane & Northern Sub
KERLATEC	JOHN	Macarthur
LANE	BRENDAN	Brisbane & Northern Sub
LEDDY	PAUL JOHN	Murray River
MCFARLANE	JAMES PATRICK SIMON	Macarthur
MCINTOSH	IRENE	Northern Beaches
MCKENNA	GREG	Hunter Region
MORETTI-BOWEN	JOANNE	Hunter Region
MURPHY	DENISE	Hunter Region
NAYLOR	WAYNE GREGORY	Brisbane & Northern Sub
NELLER	CECIL RAYMOND	Central Coast
NORRIS	COLIN STUART	Hunter Region
REMFREY	PETER	Sydney
ROGAN	DAVID	Brisbane & Northern Sub
SHEPPARD	WILLIAM MARK	Hunter Region
SILVESTER	CLIVE ALEXANDER	Northern Beaches
SIMS	GRAHAM JOHN	Peel
SMITH	KAY	Murray River
SPENCER	STEPHEN PATRICK	Northern Beaches
STEWART	BOYD	Sydney
VETTIER	JUANITA	Parramatta-The Hills
WHEATLEY	MEGAN	Illawarra
WILLIAMS	WILLIAM CHARLES	Northern Beaches
WILLIS	NARELLE	Illawarra
WOOD	BRENDON	Macarthur

BRANCH REPORTS

BRISBANE

Hi Everyone,

At the time of reading this our cold (even by QLD) Standards and wet winter is over. On a sad note, we lost one of our veteran members, **Graham Rutter** @ Santa Claus, who will be sadly missed.

Thanks largely to the efforts **David Drew**, the businesses offering discounts to Financial RFPA members, including 3 based in SE QLD (Moffat Brewing, Brisbane Cruisers & Harvey Norman Furniture, Everton Park) continue to grow. Members are encouraged to check out the RFPA Website <https://www.retiredpolice.com.au/rfpa-member-discounts/> on a regular basis to take advantage of these discounts and if further assistance is required then please contact me and I will be happy to help.

On the 3rd of July we held our Brisbane and Northern Suburbs RFPA Christmas in July Lunch at OceanView Estate which was a great day, enjoyed by everyone who attended, with great company, great food, wonderful service at a great location.

Present were **Steve Turner, Christine & Robert McCall, Sally Matheson, Gerald & Marilyn Fiddis, Leslie & Peter Robinson, Donald McKeating, Kerry Beggs, Penny & Pieter Strik, Gary Weaver, Merv and Carol Mellings, Brendan Lane, Julie Newman.**



Our August meeting and luncheon were held on Saturday, 2nd at the Norths Leagues and Service Club. **Cooky** gave an engaging presentation about his overseas security service career after his tenure with the police force. This prompted several other members to share valuable insights into their own professional journeys.

Thank you to all those listed below for their contributions, which helped make the meeting informative and enjoyable. Present: **Steve & Lynell Turner, Sally Matheson, Ken Fogarty, Michael & Felicity White, Bob Leembruggen, Grant Cook, Garry Weaver, Merv Melling's, Penny & Pieter Strik, Ross Kowalenko, Paddy De Mezieres, Dale De Martino, Donald McKeating, Clint and Sandra Halloran.**

Thanks also to **Michael White** who added fun to the day when he set up **Lynell, Sally** and myself me up with the club to get photographed in the yellow car in the foyer, lol.



It was a such nice warm SE QLD day, so we had our Bi-Monthly mid-week lunch yesterday at Burpengary Community Club (RSL) in their Alfresco area and everyone seemed to have a good time. We even had a brief visit from 2 members of the QLD IPA who live locally that we hope to join up as RFPA Members.

Attendees: **Steve & Lynell Turner, Ken Fogarty, Marilyn & Gerald Fiddis, Gloria and David Weight, Leslie Robinson, Penny & Pieter Strik, Garry & Liz Weaver.**



Once again, the committee are volunteers and give up their time freely to organise various functions and Lunches for the benefit of members, their partners and their friends. While information for these events is supplied at meetings, they are also emailed and posted on our Facebook. Therefore, it is very much appreciated by the committee of those members who do check for emails or posts on a regular basis and rsvp in a timely manner.

Regards

Steve Turner

Chairman and Secretary

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CENTRAL COAST

GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS.

One can only look at the horrors on television and wonder what the future holds for mankind, with those in supreme power having no regard for the death and destruction they are inflicting on their neighbours. And whilst the deaths are in the hundreds of thousands, one can only imagine the extent of injury, not to mention the decimation of homes and living situations. On the Central Coast we could be forgiven for believing that we are immune from major problems. That is, until we see the incidents that are occurring in shopping centres, aged care facilities and even child minding operations. If we have not been affected by any of these situations, we must consider ourselves blessed and make the most of time we have left to enjoy the company of those closest to us and hope that the problems occurring elsewhere just do not reach us.

The Branch Meeting was held at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah, on Tuesday, 19th August, 2025, commencing at 11 a.m., chaired by current Chairman, **Geoff Talbot**. A summary of the matters dealt with at the Meeting is set out hereunder: Chairman **Geoff** extended a welcome to new Member, **Cecil Nellor**, on his second visit to a Meeting.

Attendees: **Ernie and Bev Carmichael, Barry and Marj Clark, Bill Connors, Neil Dick, Grant Harridge, Ray Hatcher, Keith Hockley, Bede Irvine, Russ Jackson, John and Anne Kent, Bryan Lowe, Brian McVicar, John Marheine, Cecil Nellor, John and Noelene Nicholas, John Roger, Phil Stubbs-Mills, Geoff Talbot, I.J. Toms, Russ Whitcher.**



Happy Bruce

Our Welfare Officer, **Barry Clark**, presented details to the Meeting of those Members. Not doing so well. Barry reported on **Trevor Carroll** who has suffered severe throat cancer.

Barry said that **Bill Ide**, now living in a retirement village at Umina, is doing as well as can be expected and is happy in his present location.

Social Report from **Russ** -the pre-Christmas mixed lunch will be held at the Royal Hotel, Wyong, on Wednesday, 26th November, 2025, commencing at 11.30 a.m.

Chairman Geoff said that he had attended the AGM of the Retired and Former Police Association a couple of weeks earlier. He said that a copy of the financial statement of the State Branch was available for Members to inspect if so desired.

Geoff also related a story involving his attendance at the funeral of **James Stewart Rutherford, OAM**, father of our colleague, **John Rutherford**, held at All Saints Anglican Church on 10th July, 2025. Geoff said that, after the service he was approached by a very small man who showed interest in the RFPA badge on his coat pocket, wanting to know what it represented. The man demonstrating this interest was, in fact, the former **Prime Minister John Howard**.

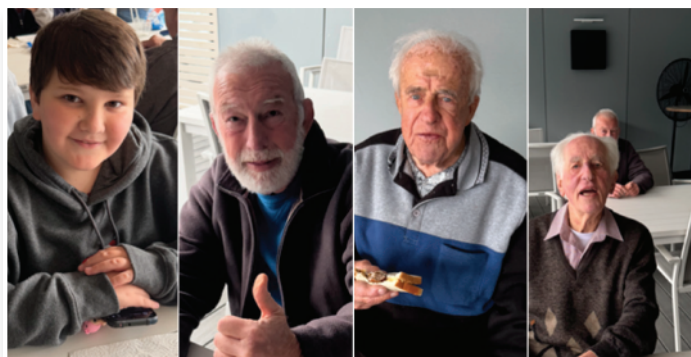
Geoff told the Meeting that Members have been invited to the celebration of Retired Police Day to be held at the Wyong Police Station on Thursday, 4th September, 2025, with light refreshments served after the service. Geoff said that one of the features at the Station is a collage of photos, extending

across an entire wall and embracing hundreds of photos covering much of the early days of policing in the region.

On Tuesday, 15th July, 2025, a cold and rainy day amidst spectacular Winter days, a happy group of revellers gathered at the Valley Tavern, at Niagara Park, to enjoy the company and conversation... But.....more importantly.....to partake of the excellent cuisine provided, in the absence of Head Chef, **Brian**, by his deputy, **John Roger**, ably assisted by Chairman **Geoff Talbot and Peter Caddy** and the support team. It was yet another great day and, whilst we shivered in the cold outside the building, it was all worth it. Again, if you missed it, serves you right!



L. to R.: Les is seen holding 5 aces. Keith is seriously questioning that hand. John and John are very sceptical about it.



Ollie enjoyed his sausage sandwich, even enough to turn his mobile phone off. Bruce was happy with his outcome. John was still contemplating his and Russ thought he would give it a positive.

21st October, 2025. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.
18th November, 2025. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Niagara Park.
26th November, 2025. Christmas lunch, Royal Hotel, Wyong.
16th December, 2025. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.
20th January, 2026. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Niagara Park.
17th February, 2026. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

And what does the future hold.

Whilst there have been extremely hot temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere, there are those here who say they cannot remember a colder Winter. Well, it certainly has been cold, even with early snow in the mountain areas and some spectacular visions even in the New England and neighbouring regions. But it will all change soon. Spring is not that far away and it will be wonderful to see the plants thriving and the flowers blooming. This is the time to make the most of what abilities you've kept in reserve. Get out there and keep mobile. We must make the most of every day, treat every day as a bonus and take care of those closest to us. We must surely be grateful for the features we encounter daily on the Central Coast. Could life be any better than it is in this area of the planet.

With best wishes to everyone.

John E. (Ernie) Carmichael.

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CENTRAL TABLELANDS

We look forward to your contributions for our next gazette

COFFS HARBOUR

Greetings Coffs Harbour Branch RFPA Members, RFPA State HQs, as well as our Coffs/Clarence Current Serving Members. I've had a busy couple of months with work and personal commitments. On Thursday 7th August on behalf of an Invitation by the Commander of Coffs/Clarence Police **Command Supt Joanne Schultz APM**, I had the honour of representing our Coffs/Clarence RFPA Branch at the Coffs/Clarence Police Awards Day, including Public Servant Admin staff that were also noted. This event was held at The Link, Hogbin Drive, Toormina. The Coffs CWA ladies provided a wonderful array of food for us all to enjoy. On behalf of our RFPA Branch, I congratulate all Award Recipients for their outstanding Police work and Support.



On Tuesday 19th August we gathered at Donovan's Link Café again, this time it was our bi-monthly social luncheon. in Hogbin Drive, Toormina. The lunch and camaraderie were great, and everyone enjoyed themselves. It was slightly cool; however, we were seated under a big roof heater which meant that everyone was comfortable.

ATTENDING. Garry/Suzanne Heskett Ian Hodges OAM JP/Sue Sandy Fellows John Hartley APM Harley/Rhonda Toms Bev Clancy Dierdra McLeod Betty Lyne Anthony/Jan Lawler Doug Tysoe Murray/Judy Smith Jan Marshall Dave Morris Barry/Charmane Walker John Reid Gary Commins APM Ron Braun Ruth Boyd Natalie Salter Hedley/Barbara Gleave Tony/Shiela Brown 4

On Thursday 4th September, there was a great roll-up by our RFPA Members attending the RFPA Day at the Coffs /Clarence Police Station. **Ma'am Schultz** leading the Station welcome for us all. After welcome, Superintendent **Schultz** ran a question-and-answer game between one of our elder members, **Alan Elworthy**, and 2 x new Probationary Constables. The Q and A were centered around our old days and their new days, and the differing perspectives, opinions and differences experienced. I must admit, the biggest applause was when it was noted that **Alan Elworthy** had played first grade for the mighty Parramatta EELS in his younger days. Several of our Police Widows were presented with RPA Lapel Badges in

remembrance of their former Police Officer partners passed on. A fantastic sausage sizzle mixed with sides of fresh salads and juices filled our bellies. There was a delicious cake also shared by all to celebrate the day. A grand tour of the Station saw the **Bearcat** parked out the back. Unable to provide pics though because it's a big black secret vehicle, used by Task Force RAPTOR. My days in S.W.O.S. were an old Van and this heavy-duty Ford Falcon that was bullet proof. I remember once sitting in this Van awaiting an Armed Robbery, when one of the team passed wind. There was no escape!!!! Those in attendance along with those that submitted apologies are as follows: **Garry Heskett JP Tony/Sheila Brown Brian Thompson Natalie Salter Colin Bird Steve Jamsek Ian Hodges OAM JP with Sue Anne Grebert Deirdre Mcleod Peter Croucher Peter Chilton Betty Lyne John Reid Bev Clancy Gary Commins APM John Hartley APM Harley/Rhonda Toms Jan Marshall Lloyd Deaver Hedley/Barbara Gleave Ron Braun Doug Tysoe.**

On Tuesday/16th September I was at the Coffs Men's Shed. I normally go there every Tuesday where I practice my music with a Men's Shed Band. We play at Nursing Homes, Retirement Villages, and other gigs. I enjoy music and the camaraderie of the band. You may not be aware we have a group of card players that attend on Wednesdays. Guess what? They are all Retired and Former Police members from our own Coffs/Clarence RFPA Branch. **Murray Smith**, apart from playing cards, looks after the Garage Sales once a month, helped by Doug Tysoe.

Missing from the photo below is **Hedley Gleave and Tony Lawler** who are also part of this Card Sharp Group and members of our RFPA. Present: **Garry Heskett, Ron Braun, Doug Tysoe and Murray Smith.**

CoM has embarked on a project which was recently considered following a suggestion from Murray River Branch, considering the terminology used by the RFPA. The concept of 'WellBeing' rather than, or in combination with 'Welfare' is being examined in the light of other organisations transitions to that terminology. Change may be warranted and our project will evaluate this.

Cheers

Garry Heskett
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DUBBO

We look forward to your contributions for our next gazette.

HUNTER REGION

In the last couple of months we've been travelling for our lunches, and have visited HUNTLEE (Tavern) , CAMERON PARK (Irish Pub) , and COCKLE CREEK (Club Macquarie), with Committee meetings at MEDOWIE (Pacific Dunes) , RAYMOND TERRACE (Bowlo) and CLUB MACQUARIE (AGM). It was pleasing to see that volunteers for Committee work were putting their hands up, and will continue the significant upward trends in our membership. We now have over 200 members and they take some looking after! Thanks go to the following office bearers for 2026.

AI CRUMPTON (Chair) Bob GRAY (Vice) Garry TUCKWOOD (Secretary) Lee RANKIN (Treasurer) and Committee workers Rene MARKERINK, Chrissy MARKERINK, Mark VAUGHAN, Keith RUTHERFORD, Murray SAIT, Brian CARR and Rob BARTLETT.

We thank outgoing Committee **Glenn JENKINS** and **John HURLEY** for their assistance over past years and hope to welcome them, along with some new members and associates at Charlestown Bowlo on Tuesday 14 October around 1130am.

Retired Police Day was hosted in our area this year by Newcastle and Lake Macquarie PDs at Club Macquarie, and Port Stephens Hunter and Upper Hunter Police Districts at Muree Golf Club. Feedback from the venues was that new equipment is a standout (how does it all work??) and a serious trend towards home invasions with weapons in some places. All the Commanders present expressed confidence in the young police they are receiving from initial training, and were glad of them, with many vacancies

now being able to be filled. The fact that we were invited in large numbers and personally is felt by us all as a rebuttal of the old saying... 'nothing more X than...' We are made welcome year after year at these formal events and are privileged to see young police receiving awards for excellence in police work, as voted on by their peers.



Vice Chair Bob GRAY presentation to Ellie BUSH

Police Remembrance Day 2025 was well attended at Christ Church Cathedral, with families who have lost loved ones being the focus of the day. Representing the local Police Districts, some 100 police in uniform were also there. In conversing with them, it was learned that they are also keenly interested in honouring those who have lost their lives whilst keeping the general public as safe as they can be. The respectful and haunting music of the pipes and drums in Newcastle Cathedral has to be experienced.



Pauline hubby VIPI are with Deb and Mark VAUGHAN, Maz and Chris HERRMANN, Chuck NORRIS - (background Bob GRAY, Murray SAIT, Keith RUTHERFORD, Lee RANKIN, Brian Plews, John Willson

We have engaged **Russell OXFORD** to talk about his work in Lebanon whilst working through an avalanche of shootings in Sydney whilst attached to Homicide. He's delivering at Tea Gardens on 28 October. We look forward to his second visit, a special event at the Palm Lake Theatre.

We remember the contribution of **Thomas Henderson CONNERTON** Reg'd No 11113 - 'Tom' to all, who provided work for most of us in the Hunter Region per medium of his melodious voice and great humour on our favourite radio station - VKG3 for many years. **Peggy** passed away in

2024 and Tom left us on Wednesday last. Our condolences go to their two daughters **Donna and Joanne**.



Hunter Chair CRUMPTON presents Ron BENDER with his OBE at the Irish Pub

Long term Associate of the Hunter Region Branch and Police Legatee, **Susan DALEY**, was recently incapacitated and hospitalised. During her recovery Susan was diagnosed with other serious issues and is in Newcastle Private Hospital as I write. She is able to welcome visitors on enquiry with the hospital.

Ian Lovell

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ILLAWARRA (WOLLONGONG) AND KIAMA BRANCHES

We look forward to your contributions for our next gazette.

MACARTHUR

The meeting again was well attended along with the Guest Speaker and major Sponsor **Gerald Kenneally** of Kenneally's Funeral.



PRESENT: Allan & Marnie Carr, Mark & Susan Kellert, Ian & Jo Baloglow, Roger & Lorraine Ford, Gary & Denise Moffitt, John Carroll, Ron Reuben, Kevin Barr, Max Madgwick, Wendy Walsh, Peter Nellies, Les Green, Gary Jorgensen, Graham Rule, Kevin Hill, Bob Barnett, Michael Timms, Geoff Allen, Sonya Matthew, Mal Sinton, John Dilosa, Bob Hynes, Peter Hevey, Allan Heaney, Mark Doubleday, Geoff McNevin, Pamela Smith, Alan Moule, Darrin Wilson, Ray James, Danny Doherty, and Mark Doubleday.



APOLOGIES: Peter & Susan Millar, Ken & Wendy Aldham, Richard & Lillian Cordwell, Chris Broughton, Sonia Roberts Peter Edwards, Rod Grant, Len Attard, Paul McDonald, Bruce Williams, Susan Thomas, Brian Harding, Joe Stanioch, and Rob Thomsett

During the meeting the Vale & Ode were delivered and respected with a minute silence.

We had a good turnout for our Coffee Crunch at Meet and Eat Café, Ed Square and about 40 attended the Christmas in July Luncheon at Menangle Country Club which will become an annual social event.

As a result of our recent golf day funding The Kanmed Baby Bed Warmer System has been purchased for \$14,601.00 which when delivered will be positioned in the Neonatal Section of Campbelltown Hospital.

A Special Presentation was made to Gerald Kenneally for his Sponsorship to the Branch by **John Carroll, Roger Ford, and Ron Reuben.**

Another Presentation with a Flower arrangement and a Plaque was made to **Lorraine Ford** by **John Carroll, and Ron Reuben** for her significant Voluntary contribution for the Branch.

The next Meeting will be held at the West Leagues Club, Leumeah

Roger Ford

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Kanmed Baby Warming System for premature babies

Ed note: Another excellent fund raiser donating to a most worthy cause. The Kanmed BabyWarmer is designed to keep premature, near term or newborn babies perfectly warm and is well researched as a result babies are proven to leave the incubator earlier, relax, sleep better and grow optimally.

MANNING – GREAT LAKES

We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.

MID NORTH COAST

We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.

MURRAY RIVER

This period has seen a number of invitations for the Murray River RFPA members to new and also regular functions. The first was on Tuesday 17th June 2025, with the Inaugural National Police Legacy Day being held by Murray River Police District at Albury & Deniliquin with the Murray River RFPA members being invited to attend a morning tea by **Supt Paul Smith**. This Memorial Day has been established to join all Police Legacy organisations from all states in Australia and recognise the amazing work they do for the police family in uniting and supporting police legatees all over Australia. A number of members attended both events with the purple daisy pin being handed out to all. NSW Police Legatees **Debra Hargreave** was interviewed by media at the event about the great support provided to her by NSW Police Legacy. This National Police Legacy Day will be held every year.



L-R below Tina Smith, Rhonda Stenson, Hal Smith, Martyn Stenson, Christine Bentley, Ken Medway, Legatees Lyndelle Tubie & Deb Hargreaves with grandson.

On Tuesday 24th June 2025, members of the Murray River Branch of the RFPA went to the Ginger Cat Tea House in Albury for a private High Tea of sorts that being scones and tea in classic pots, cups and saucers. They were certainly lovely. It also happened to be **Ray Waring's** birthday, and he had a 'scone birthday cake'. His present was a sock that he left at someone's house and card from Yackendandah artist **Paul Kluga** with a half a dozen pigs sketched on it....he was happy to be celebrating his birthday with a number of 'oinkers'. Another lovely High Tea and Chat.



Birthday Boy Ray Waring, the rose between Helen Benham, & Lyndelle Tubie.

On Friday 11.7.2025 we had our Coffee & Chat at Blind Freddy's. There was discussion about the name of the location and where it came from.... well apparently:- Australian lexicographer **Sidney Baker** wrote in 1966 that 'Legend has it that there was a blind hawker in Sydney in the 1920s, named Freddy, whose blindness did not prevent his moving freely about the central city area'. We had a great time chatting and enjoying our Coffee and Chat with a few of our attendees not knowing of this cafe before today....a few more Blind Freddy's around. ☐

On Sunday 20th July 2025 AGM at the Thurgoona Golf Club. 14 Committee Positions for the next 12 months were filled by 11 members, and we thank them for taking up the positions in support of our branch and members. Details of elected people are on the Branch page of the RFPA website.

On Thursday 24th July, 2025, a very important and long overdue award was made at the Murray River Police District Medal Presentation Ceremony at Albury where we saw our members Former Senior Sergeant **Peter Beacroft**, Former Senior Sergeant **Dennis Monk**, Former Detective Senior Constable Patrick Brear of Victoria Police, & by apology Former Inspector **Albert Bennett** finally recognised for a significant cross border search, pursuit and arrest that they were involved in on 20 January 1984.



Patrick Brear, Dennis Monk, Peter Beacroft responding to the awards on behalf of the 4 former officers involved.

Also, at the above Medal Ceremony a number of other presentations were made to former officers one being a member of our branch who received her Certificate of Service, that being Former Senior Constable **Linda Jackson**. Congratulations and thank you for your service.

A great turn up of Murray River RFPA branch members to the Retired Police Day held at Albury Police Station on 4.9.25. Thanks to A/ Superintendent **Scott Russell** and his Admin team for a lovely morning tea and a wonderful presentation regarding the late Sergeant Cyril Howe QPM. **Peter Beacroft** was presented with his "OBE" (Over Bloody Eighty) and **Warren Mitchell, George Krooglik, Paul Leddy** and **Pat Brear** were presented with the Retired Police pin.



Peter Beacroft receiving his "OBE" (Over Bloody Eighty) certificate and medallion from A/ Superintendent Scott Russell and Ken Zegiel, Chair of the Murray River RFPA branch.



Paul Leddy, Warren Mitchell, George Krooglik and Pat Brear, who received their Retired Police pin.

Beth Docksey, APM

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NEW ENGLAND

We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.

NORTHERN BEACHES

On Thursday the 24th July we held our AGM at Manly Leagues Club. We continue to have a strong, committed team with Branch Chairman – **Dave WHITEMAN**, Branch Vice Chairman – **Brian FRIEND**, Branch Secretary – **Al LE SURF** and Branch Treasurer – **Garrie WATT**. **Garrie** takes over from **Bill and Christine BUSH** who have done an excellent job over the past 10 years.

The additional roles nominated and accepted were Auditor- **Allan HINES**, Committee Member s- **David DREW** and **Alex VOGT**, Welfare Team - **Barry MILES**, **Geoff KAY** and **Brian FRIEND**, Grief & Bereavement Officer - **Deb ANDERSON**, Social Secretary - **Liz WHITEMAN** and Branch Reporters - **Ian FINLAYSON** and **Julie BERTOLDO**. We had 37 members and guests in attendance.

Superintendent **John DUNCAN** of the Northern Beaches PAC keynote speech had us all captivated. His frontline insights into evolving policing strategies and current statistics sparked thoughtful conversation and offered a rare window into today's challenges. His comprehensive knowledge and ability to explain the statistics with great clarity and understanding was refreshing and well appreciated by our members and guests.



On Thursday 10th of July we had a great afternoon on the Paddleboat, Nepean Belle cruising the Nepean River. We had clear skies and icy winds to celebrate Xmas in July. 35 intrepid souls enjoyed the day.



Nepean Belle Group

Dave and Liz WHITEMAN got into the festive spirit with their colourful outfits. A big thank you to **Bruce ALDERTON**, who journeyed from Cessnock to Brookvale to ferry six more merry "pirates" aboard.



Bruce, Bill BUSH and Dave WHITEMAN

On Fri 15th August at the Terrey Hills Tavern we had our bi-monthly "coffee" catchup. A lot of members could not make it for a variety of reasons. This venue is quite popular for its general ambience and ease of parking.

Our Branch Xmas party will be on Thursday the 11th of December, 2025 at the Manly Leagues, remember to mark it in your calendar.

Stay Safe,

Ian Finlayson and Julie Bertoldo

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NORTHERN RIVERS

Greetings from the Northern Rivers Branch. Well the year is already getting away and it certainly has been a cold winter in some areas of the state. Flooding is again in the news and it does make you wonder about climate change.

We had our last meeting at Tattersalls Hotel in Casino on the 22 July 2025. This was also our annual general meeting where all positions were declared vacant. Thanks to all those who volunteered for the next 12 months to act in various roles.



Some of our branch at lunch in Casino

In general news at the meeting I advised of my attendance with fellow ex Police cadet **Ron Maher** at our recent **3 day ex Police cadet reunion held on the Gold Coast**. A lot of effort went into the organisation and approximately 80 ex Police cadets and partners attended.



Ladies at ex cadet reunion July 2025 on the Gold Coast



Ex Police cadets at reunion July 2025 on the Gold Coast

It was also with some sadness that I reported having attended the 30th memorial service of the murders of Senior Constables **Peter Addison and Bob Spears** who tragically lost their lives at Crescent Head on the 9 July 1985. I was part of the shooting investigation team from Homicide North, Newcastle and those sad memories have stayed with me. It was good to see such a large gathering of Police, retired Police and the public attend.

Our next meeting is yet to be scheduled and we hope for a good attendance. I am enclosing photographs taken at the Casino meeting on 22 July 2025. Those present were: **Charlie Halloran (APM), Bill Nugent, Ted Harrison, Barry Hurren, Ron Maher, Bruce King, Glenys Parker, Mike Sullivan, Doug Townsend, Ron Marriott, Chris Wallace and Glenn Taylor.**

Regards

Glenn Taylor, Branch reporter

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NORTHERN SUBURBS (FORMERLY HORNSBY & DISTRICTS)

It was a sad Winter for us with the passing of our elder statesman and foundation member **Wal Gaffney**, leaving us just a month short of his 97th birthday. Although Wal was unable to attend our meetings in the last few years his thoughts were always with the Association.



Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Marge, and family. Wal was present at Gladesville for the 2019 Retired Police Day (third from the right between the late **Bruce Johnson** and **Steve Mathews**).



Our August meeting was attended by (back row) **Ross Beattie, Rohan Smith, Greg Bertoldo, Bill Leadbeatter, Robyn Bartlett, Dave Lowden, Peter McDonnell, Kent Vild, Les Potter, Greg Muir** and seated **Bill Johnson and Bruce Williams**. Apologies were received from

Alan Doak, Ken McKnight, John Andrews, Wal Gaffney, Dick Smith, Bill Shute, John Schell, Verity Greenwood, John Graham, Phil Scott.



I was honoured to present **Bill Johnson** with his Veteran Certificate (OBE), having worked with Bill at Ryde many years ago. Bill hasn't been enjoying the best of health lately and we wish him well. **Bruce Williams** gave us a very thorough talk on a fatal collision that he and **Keith 'Tracker' Bradley** attended at Pymble in 1983.

We were fortunate to receive an invitation to the Retired Police Day at the Aviation Command. A very interesting visit and thoroughly recommended if you get the opportunity. All staff were very friendly and helpful, providing us with an insight into the improved operations of the Command. John Graham and I met up with **Insp Paul Roper**, head of the Drone Unit. Paul remembered me from his first day at Harbourside LAC (North Sydney/ Mosman) in 1999 where I was a Duty Officer. A lot of water under the bridge since then.



Pictured from left to right is **Peter McDonnell, Bruce Williams, Warren and Trudi Cole, John Graham, Verity Greenwood-Graham, Greg Muir, Bill Leadbetter, Rohan Smith and Bill Shute**. Our condolences also go out to Bill Shute on the recent loss of his son.

Our meetings are held at 11am (coffee upstairs at 10am) in the Boronia Room, Hornsby RSL Club on the first Thursday of the even months (October next meeting), with coffee and lunch meetings from 11am on the first Thursday of the odd months at Asquith Bowling Club, although this may be changed in the future. Keep an eye on the website for any news in this regard.

Best regards

Greg Muir

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PARRAMATTA - THE HILLS

In June and after enjoying coffee and camaraderie in the glorious winter sunshine of the alfresco café at The Vineyard Hotel, our Parramatta/The Hills RFPA group adjourned to the on-site restaurant for a most enjoyable lunch.

On a very cold and wet Thursday morning we saw of our 12 members brave the freezing conditions for our Thursday morning coffee at Cafe "Paradise" inside the Parramatta Eels Centre of Excellence at Kellyville. All were happy to include this new venue for our Coffee Mornings.

Many happy members of our Parramatta/The Hills RFPA Branch gathered at The Precinct, Blacktown to celebrate Christmas In July. The BBQ, laughter and warmth of friendship and camaraderie melted away the cold conditions, and all declared it to be another successful and enjoyable event.



The cold and rainy conditions of 30th July did nothing to dampen the spirits of these members of the Parramatta/The Hills Branch who travelled to the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) at Lucas Heights. After a very informative and entertaining tour of the facility led by our guide, Peter, the group enjoyed lunch on the premises before another safe journey home thanks to our bus driver.



In August The Parramatta/The Hills Branch of the RFPA held their Annual General Meeting at the Blacktown Workers Club. Following an enthusiastic exchange of ideas elections were held and the incumbents were returned.

After a short recess, those still present enjoyed a very interesting presentation delivered by Branch Vice Chairman, **Paul Smith**, a former member of the NSW Police Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit, regarding the 'Collar Bomber'.



In August Parramatta/The Hills Branch of the RFPA was well represented at the Memorial Service held to celebrate Vietnam Veterans Day/Victory in the Pacific. Several Branch members joined a large gathering at Seven Hills RSL Sub-Branch to recognise the invaluable contribution of more than 60,000 Australians who served and sacrificed in the Vietnam War.



The significance of the event was enhanced by the presence of **General Sir Peter Cosgrove**, AK, AC(mil), CVO, MC (Rtd) who was characteristically generous with his time after the Ceremony.



First Thursday in September is designated as Retired Police Day and Castle Hill, Parramatta & Riverstone Police Commands combined to host the day at Castle Hill RSL. A well-attended event with several attendees recruited to join the RFPA.

Nick Pavlov, Branch Reporter
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PEEL

We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.

PENRITH BLUE MOUNTAINS

We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.

RIVERINA

The BOM may have predicted a warm winter before this last winter gone but I can assure you it has been a very cold and drawn-out winter down here in the south west and Riverina but thankfully we are now in Spring and temperatures should start to rise in the next couple of months or so.

The cold weather hasn't deterred most of our members from attending coffee and lunchtime outings.

On Monday 16th June, sixteen members spent a very frosty morning at a coffee and lunch outing at Cootamundra Ex Services Club. Our newest member, **Mark MILLS** attended his first outing with us, and I hope we will see a lot more of him, welcome Mark. Those attending on the day were **Fred and Rae Loneragan, Kevin and Louis Barber, Dennis Guerin, Jeff and Lorna Abel, Barry and Janet Scott, Mark Mills, Barry and Virginia Winkler and Graeme and Margaret Holmes.**



There were tales after the outing in relation to kangaroo avoidance whilst travelling home, however, thankfully there were no accidents.

Another coffee and lunch outing was held at the Wagga RSL Club on Monday 14th July. Numbers attending was a little down as we had several apologies due to colds and sneezers. Those that did attend enjoyed a very nice roast or schnitzel before the war stories started and a good day was had by all.

Kevin Barber, our hard-working Welfare officer recently attended St. Vincent's for a serious operation in late June. Kevin has placed himself on sick report and we are all hoping that he will be back with us at meeting etc. in the very near future. The members of the Riverina RFPA would like to thank **Ian Moore** for arranging someone to visit Kevin while he was in Hospital. Thank you, Ian. Our members that are not running marathons, **Norm Deen, Bob Hogn, Ron Beard and Sandy Mellis** and we hope they are all OK and comfortable.

The AGM for RIVRFPA was held on Monday 18th August at the Wagga RSL with the following members were elected, **Fred Loneragan Chairman, Barry Scott Treasurer and Graeme Holmes Secretary.** The position of Welfare officer has been held in obedience until Kevin Barber gets well.

Our members attended the Wagga Wagga Police Station on Thursday 4th September by invitation from **Superintendent Spliet** to recognize Retired Police Day. We were treated to a presentation on Policing today and general discussions on the differences in the NSW Police now and when we were in the job. After this we were treated to coffee, tea sandwiches and cakes. All attending agreed it was a great morning

Graeme Holmes Sec.
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SOUTH COAST

We look forward to our contributions for our next Gazette.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

The Southern Highlands Branch Charter remains current and in place however the Branch is taking a break

SOUTHERN TABLELANDS

We look forward to our contributions for our next Gazette.

SYDNEY

We look forward to our contributions for our next Gazette.

TWEED/GOLD COAST

Our branch meeting held on Tuesday 12th August, 2025 was a normal bi-monthly meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Garry JARDINE, Terry and Betty PERKINS, Geoff CHESTER, Jeff FOWLER, John BEACHAM, Bruce and Dora THOMSON, Les ZAHN, Ken and Esther JENKINS, Patrick MEDWAY, Russell ROBERTSON Jim MATHEWS, Steve HUBBARD, Geoff and Vicki MAXWORTHY, Max ROBERTS, John COOKE, Garry WILLIAMS.**

Apologies were received from 12 members unable to attend.

Our branch arranged a Christmas in July at Club Tweed, Tweed Heads on 8th July which was well attended and all enjoyed a wonderful roast meal and dessert. A very enjoyable Christmas in July lunch at Club Tweed



Member **John COOKE** received his OBE certificate during the meeting.



Two of our members, **Patrick MEDWAY AM**, and **Geoff CHESTER**, who both served in the Australian Police Contingents for UN Peace Keepers in Cyprus during the 1960's, gave a presentation on their Tours of Duty, showing many photographs and documents of that experience. Quite an insight into the many dangers facing Australian Police and facts that weren't always made known at the time.

Geoff MAXWORTHY was nominated and duly elected as Branch Secretary after the position was left vacant after the AGM. Congratulations to **Geoff** and his supporting role with our Branch.

Our Welfare Officers for Tweed and Gold Coast have been very busy with visits and calls to members who are recovering from various ills. Deputy Chairman **Gary MATTHEWS** has been in and out of hospital like a yo-yo but on the mend. Condolences to veteran member **Jim MATHEWS** with the recent passing of his wife **Ros**. Also to the family of veteran **Graham BISHOP** who recently passed away.

The Officers and staff put on another welcoming day for retired and former Police on Thursday, 4th September at Tweed Heads Police Station. Forty retired and former Police and family members attended on the day. Demonstration of Special Operations Police equipment and a recent case study within the district of a violent home invasion and subsequent investigation highlighting the prowess of their Police team in this event. A wonderful BBQ lunch with all the trimmings was later provided and much discussion was made with serving members. There was a feeling of friendship, respect, and thanks for service recognition of the Police family. An honour to attend and well done again to all at the Tweed.

Bruce THOMSON

Tweed/Gold Coast Branch
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WATER POLICE (SUB BRANCH) (FORMED 21 MARCH 2013)

We look forward to our contributions for our next Gazette.

WIDE BAY

We look forward to your contribution in our next edition.

NOTICEBOARD

UPUPCOMING REUNIONS

GO TO YOUR RFPA WEBSITE FOR THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION. www.retiredpolice.com.au AND LOOK UP "CLASS REUNIONS AND EVENTS"

What: 61 year reunion for members of class 101A / 1964.

Where: Location Club 88 - Burwood Road Burwood. Opposite Burwood Park. Parking below club available.

When: Date Wednesday 29 October 2025 commencing 12 noon.

Contact: If attending please contact **John Seward – 041292209 – john.newington@bigpond.com**

What: N.S.W. Ex Police Cadets Function, Club York.

Where: Club York, 95-99 York Street, Sydney.

When: Wednesday 25th February, 2026. 11am – 3.30pm

Meal: 3 course sit down lunch. Cost \$100 p.h.

Drinks: Drinks supplied.

Payment: On or before 30th January, 2026
Electronically: Ex Police Cadets Assn of NSW,
BSB: 815-000. Police Bank Acct No. 241807,
Payment by cheques not accepted.
Payable to Ex Police Cadets Assn, of NSW.
(Include Your name with payment.)

Contact: Ian Moore, Secretary / Treasurer:
Ex Police Cadets Assn of NSW.
E: expolicecadets@hotmail.com
(M) 0404 88 1513. (LL): 02 4443 1007.
P.O. Box 3317 Vincentia, NSW 2540.

ANY PLANS FOR REUNION OF CLASS 105A?

Bob Cunningham, 86 is asking if there is any plans for a reunion of Class 105A graduated 1st November 1965. Bob was a former Police Cadet and in his career he worked at Eastwood, Ryde, Moree, Clarence Town, Coffs Harbour, Broken Hill etc. Some of his classmates were **Warren Chambers** and **Peter Walsh** from Port Macquarie. On his discharge he purchased the Mungani Hotel in Dalby Qld.

His request was to find out if a 60 x year reunion of his class 105A was being planned. Bob now lives in Coffs Harbour now, contact on) 02-66536478.

Ed Note: Charlie D'Agostino (0411 177 067) and Ian Moore (0404 881 513) regularly run Cadets Reunions

REUNIONS HELD

40TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION OF CLASS 214 OF 1985

Top row 3 L to R - **Greg Inger, Winston Pisani, Steve Oliver**

Next 3 L to R - **Len Grahame, Adam Plummer, George Nielsen**

Next 3 L to R - **Glenn Rose, Glenn Hickey, Glenn Frost**

Next 4 L to R - **Greg Hicks, Doug Cotton, (Stephen) Mark Watson, Craig Borton**

Last 5 men L to R - **Clive Swanston, Terry Cosgrove, Dan Gallagher, Andrew Bullock, Alex Vogt**

Ladies L to R - **Lyn Kaesler, Julie (Lowe) Sinclair, Jo (Martin) Plummer, Karen (Heppell) Thomas, Michele Ledden**



CLASS 167 – 45 YEAR REUNION WEEKEND

Class 167 marched out of the Police Academy, Redfern on 23 June 1980. Several reunion functions have been held since then, however for the 45 year reunion it was decided by the group to have a weekend away. Mudjee was selected and what a great place it is for a reunion.

People gathered at the Horizon Motel on Friday and explored the Mudjee Brewing Company on the Friday afternoon and evening, followed by dinner at Club Mudjee. Saturday morning the group enjoyed a winery tour with Mudjee Wine Explorer Tours, followed by a visit to Gulgong (the town on the old ten dollar note) and a sumptuous repast at the Prince of Wales Hotel.

The main reunion function was held in the Irish room at Kelly's Irish Pub in Mudjee on Saturday evening. Everyone is now looking forward to what the planning committee can come up with for the next reunion.

Photo shows **Geoff Perry, Peter Reeks, Lenore Schiller (nee Kanzler), Rowland McGready, Sue Alexander (nee Crane) Graeme Napier, Maria Rustja, John Hartley, Graeme Nicholas, Jim Warren, George Brennan, Keith Bennett.**

Cheers

Rowland



THE WAY WE WERE



The Glebe Police Staff Photo – 8 Div (not all staff in photo from 1990)



VALE

All relevant information regarding the passing of Members and former Police will be posted on the Retired Police Website www.retiredpolice.com.au under the category of 'VALE'.



Then go to 'Death and Funeral Notices'. You will note that the latest posts contain funeral detail. This will be removed when no longer needed and the VALE list updated accordingly. To access the website, go to www.retiredpolice.com.au

We will remember them.

* Denotes Serving Member

SURNAME	CHRISTIAN/KNOWN NAME	AGE	REG.NO	BRANCH	DECEASED
BALDWIN	Laurence Peter 'Laurie'	85	11207	Wide Bay	12/8/2025
BARBER	Kevin Patrick	82	13736	Riverina	17/9/2025
BISHOP	Graham Gerald	83	12551	Tweed/Gold Coast	27/8/2025
BRIDGE	Larry William	78	18169	Mid North Coast	11/9/2025
BURNS	Warren Edward	90	9725	Unattached	13/7/2025
GAFFNEY	Walter David	96	8297	Northern Suburbs	16/8/2025
GLASHEEN	John Patrick	79	12231	Unattached	16/6/2025
GODKIN	OAM Raymond George	90	9427	Sydney	7/7/2025
GRIFFIN	Paul John	66	18204	Mid North Coast	5/8/2025
HAYES	Ian Francis	90	7708	Sydney	19/7/2025
LEES	Kevin Andrew	61	24671	Unattached	17/6/2025
RUTTER	Graham Lloyd	83	10807	Brisbane & Northern Sub	4/8/2025
TASSELL	John Anthony	70	16599	Northern Rivers	30/6/2025
TRIPP	John Arthur Gordon	85	10836	Central Coast	13/6/2025
WELSH	Kevin Joseph	80	11739	Peel	30/8/2025

RFPA Police Bank Account

Although it is cheaper (\$2 discount) for members, and our preferred method of paying your RFPA Membership, by periodic deduction from your Police Bank or Other Bank or Financial Institution, some members prefer to pay their RFPA Membership Fee annually by direct credit to our RFPA Police Bank Account. No cheques or Money Orders.

So here are the correct RFPA Police Bank
Account details for Membership Payment...

Account Name : RFPA

BSB : 815000

Account Number : 100067989

Amount per Year : \$28

RFPA Membership Fees paid by this method are
due on 1st July each year and are valid until 30th
June the following Year.

RFPA Discount Business Partners

Visit the RFPA Website for details on how
Financial RFPA Members can access exclusive RFPA Member
discounts from these RFPA Business Partners



Announcement of the Retired and Former Police Association and On Course Tours and Travel



I am pleased to announce that the Retired and Former Police Association has now accepted On Course Tours and Travel as a Strategic Partner with the RFPA. (oncoursetours.com.au) This initiative has been created to offer meaningful support, better lifestyle opportunities, and greater value for our members. It reflects our ongoing commitment to enhancing the welfare and well-being of those we represent. With OnCourse Tours and Travel, we are catering to the whole spectrum, from the luxury tours and accommodation to the mature travellers who may not require all the luxury and expense and are based on the northern beaches of Sydney.

On Course Tours and Travel specialises in all-inclusive escorted tours designed for mature adults looking for immersive experiences. We are a multi-award-winning tour company founded in the 1980s, and we remain a family-owned and operated company with our customers' journey at the forefront of our mind. On Course Tours and Travel supplies tours Australia-wide. I recommend going to their website at oncoursetours.com.au to see their extensive brochure of tours.

With a passion for creating unforgettable experiences with over 35 years in the coach touring industry, they have built an outstanding reputation for quality, customer service and imaginative itineraries.

Women In Travel Awards: Entrepreneur of the Year Finalist

We are humbled and proud of our Managing Director, Indigo Penn, for being nominated as a 2024 Finalist in the Travel Weekly Women in Travel Awards in both the Entrepreneur and Wholesale / Tour Operator categories. Thanks to all of our team and customers who have supported us in our journey so far, with such an exciting future ahead!

For more information and to speak with a consultant, please call

- 61 2 9986 2400
- **Email:** travel@oncoursetours.com
- **Address:**
11 Tepko Road
Terrey Hills, NSW 2084, Australia



BLUE LIGHT CARD™

Blue Light Card Membership Benefits

The RFPA is committed to continuously enhancing membership value by securing exclusive benefits for association members. In addition to existing discounts from 16 partner companies, members are now recommended to enrol in the Blue Light Card program, which extends access to preferential offers from over 500 reputable businesses. Participating companies include leading brands such as Samsung, LG, Woolworths, and Dan Murphy's, Qatar Airways, Virgin, among many others. Comprehensive details and a current list of participating companies are available directly on the Blue Light Card website. Copy and paste these URLs in your browser to see the full details of the offers.

- <https://www.bluelightcard.com.au/en/travel-discounts>
- <https://www.bluelightcard.com.au/en/electrical-discounts>
- <https://www.bluelightcard.com.au/en/fashion-discounts>

The Blue Light Card is an initiative specifically designed to recognise and reward first responders, offering generous discounts from companies wishing to acknowledge community service. Membership is available for a modest fee of \$9.95, providing two years of unlimited access to discounts across more than 500 companies.

To acquire the Blue Light Card, please follow these straightforward steps:

1. **Download the App:** The application is available at no cost from the App Store.
2. **Register Your Details:** Complete the registration process and upload a scanned copy or photo of your RFPA ID card (which displays your RFPA member number, not your registered number) to verify your current membership.
3. **Payment:** Upon filling in your details, proceed with the \$10 payment. Your application will be processed, granting you access to the discount site. You can expect confirmation of your RFPA membership by the following day, allowing you to begin shopping immediately.

Navigating the Blue Light Card platform is straightforward. Company logos are displayed on the homepage, allowing members to easily identify and access individual offers. For example, selecting the Samsung icon directs you to the Samsung product page, where all eligible discounts are clearly applied at checkout.

Discount values are subject to variation across products and suppliers, with some offers extending up to 60% off regular pricing.

RFPA EMAIL CONTACTS

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Water Police	waterpolicerfpa@retiredpolice.com.au
Wide Bay	widebayrfpa@retiredpolice.com.au

Retired & Former Police Association of NSW (Inc.)

RFPA Website

retiredpolice.com.au

RFPA Secretary

secretary@retiredpolice.com.au